



ILLINOIS ACCESS TO JUSTICE

# FY20 YEAR-END REPORT

JANUARY - JUNE 2020



# FIGHTING MASS INCARCERATION AND DEPORTATION

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Illinois Access to Justice is a state-wide program funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services that seeks to mitigate the devastating consequences of all forms of detention and incarceration and the resulting crippling effects on historically marginalized communities. Through a coalition of 59 community-centered organizations, we are expanding the network of holistic community-based legal services, including direct legal representation and education campaigns led by Community Navigators.



WHO  
WE ARE

## OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19

With the outbreak of COVID-19 beginning in March 2020, ILA2J partners were quick to respond to the immediate needs of our community members. Our partners:

- Trained **916** emergency community navigators in response to COVID-19 to share critical information and resources in the hardest hit community areas
- Conducted mobile immigration screenings
- Fought to win the release of many who were incarcerated and in immigration detention
- Shared information on how and where to get tested for COVID-19
- Passed out meals while incorporating Know Your Rights information
- Assisted hundreds in applying for emergency financial assistance

"Our Navigators have been absolutely crucial to our COVID response. Thanks to funding, the Navigators Manager was able to develop curriculum quickly and train Navigators so that information about everyone's rights to healthcare and treatment/testing for COVID, travel rights and restrictions, and DACA updates got into the community."

- THE IMMIGRATION PROJECT

"COVID-19 has been particularly devastating for people who have past or current involvement in the criminal justice system, their families, and their communities. The COVID-19 pandemic has only compounded the challenges our youth and families face, while a resurgent gun violence epidemic ravages our communities. As this is a particularly precarious time for families dealing with job loss and unstable housing situations."

- WESTSIDE JUSTICE CENTER



ILA2J DURING  
COVID-19



## STANDING TOGETHER FOR RACIAL JUSTICE

Over the past few months, we have witnessed ten of thousands of people throughout the country come together to call for racial justice and police accountability. Prior to the protests that followed the killing of George Floyd, we have witnessed how the COVID19 pandemic disproportionately affects communities of color.

ILA2J organizations stand with our communities during this time of hope and adversity. ILA2J providers have supported protesters through legal services and information, conducted mutual aid campaigns, and provided resources to community members.

On June 5th, Black and Brown mothers from Illinois Access to Justice partner organizations organized a march and vigil in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives. Mothers from North and South Lawndale stood together, demanding justice.



## ILLINOIS ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY THE NUMBERS

# 75

SERVED INDIVIDUALS FROM  
75 ILLINOIS COUNTIES

# 109

SERVED IMMIGRANTS  
FROM 109 COUNTRIES

# 161,474

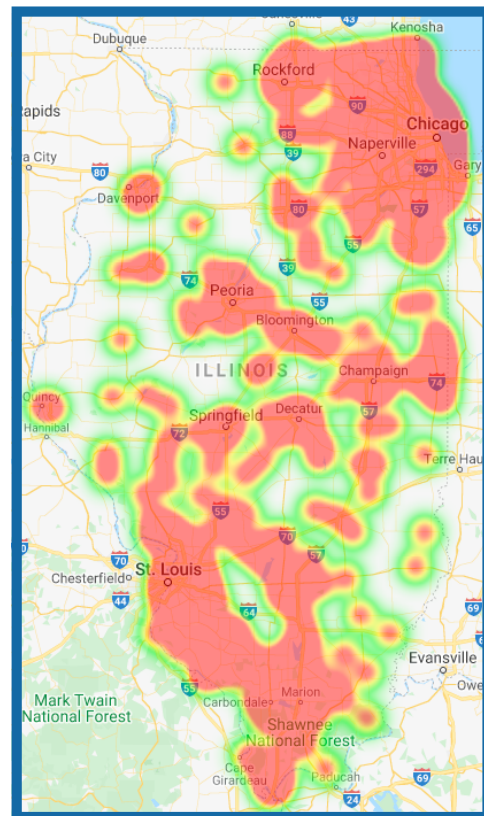
INDIVIDUALS INFORMED OF THEIR RIGHTS  
AND ACCESS TO LEGAL INFORMATION

# 600

COMMUNITY MEMBERS  
RECRUITED AND TRAINED AS  
COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS

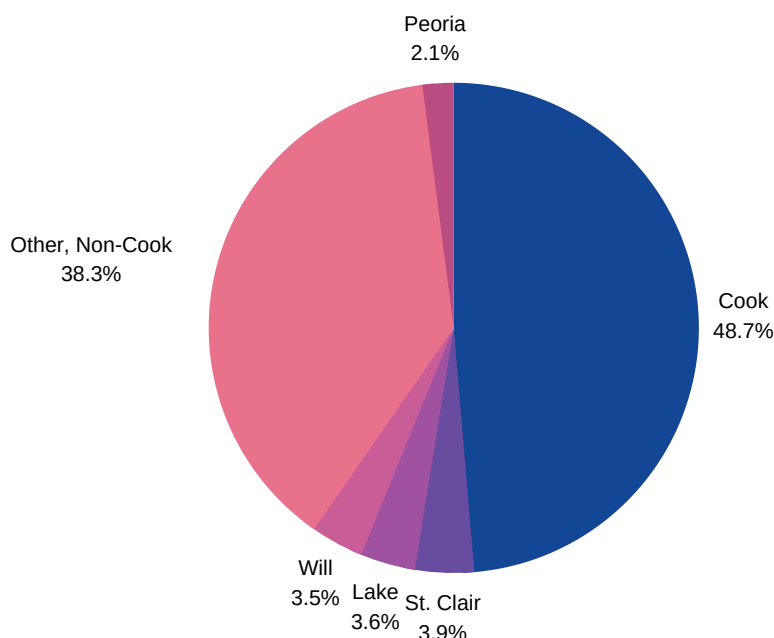
# 8,292

FREE LEGAL  
SCREENINGS  
CONDUCTED



Areas Served

OUR ILA2J LEGAL PARTNERS PROVIDED **8,292** INDIVIDUALS IMPACTED BY INCARCERATION AND DEPORTATION WITH FREE LEGAL SCREENINGS BETWEEN JANUARY AND JUNE 2020



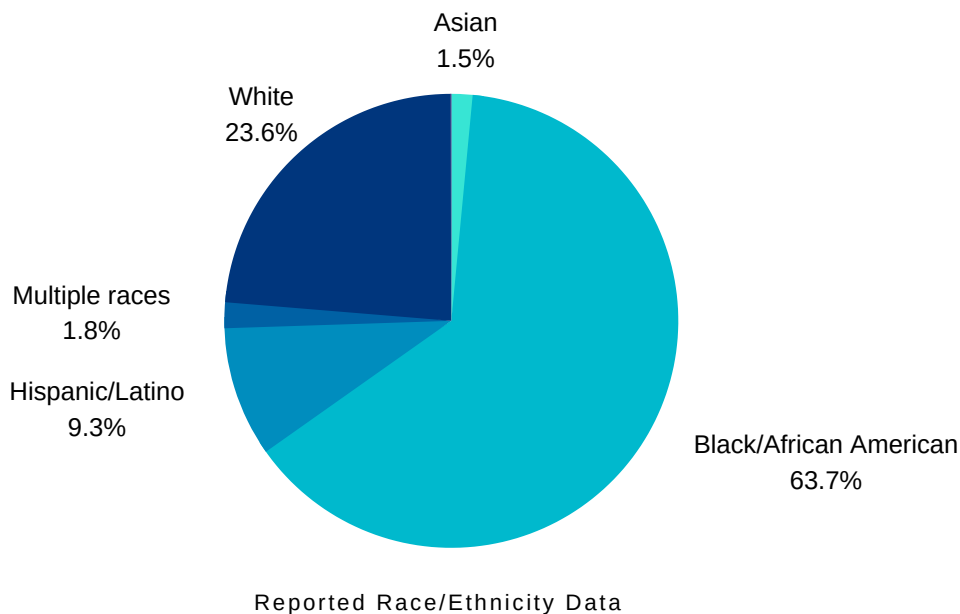
### TOP COOK COUNTY CITIES SERVED

- CHICAGO
- CICERO
- BERWYN
- MELROSE PARK
- ELMWOOD PARK
- EVANSTON
- SKOKIE

### TOP CHICAGO COMMUNITY AREAS SERVED

- AUSTIN
- SOUTH LAWNSDALE
- BELMONT CRAGIN
- HUMBOLDT PARK
- LOWER WEST SIDE

## COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY INCARCERATION BY THE NUMBERS

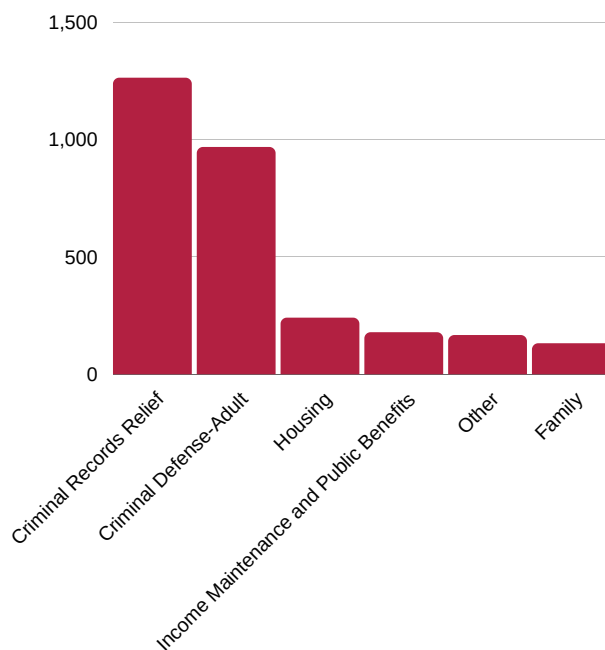


**5,722**  
FREE LEGAL SCREENINGS  
CONDUCTED

**2,754**

CASES ACCEPTED FOR  
REPRESENTATION WITH  
VARYING LEVELS OF SERVICE  
IN AREAS OF CRIMINAL  
RECORDS RELIEF, HOUSING,  
FAMILY LAW, AMONG OTHERS

- **269** COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS RECRUITED
- **40,254** INDIVIDUALS PROVIDED WITH LEGAL OUTREACH AND EDUCATION
- **634** INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED EDUCATION ABOUT RIGHTS IN RELATION TO JOB SEEKING
- **84** EMPLOYERS EDUCATED ABOUT RIGHTS OF RETURNING CITIZENS IN HIRING PROCESS





## COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY IMMIGRATION BY THE NUMBERS

# 121,220

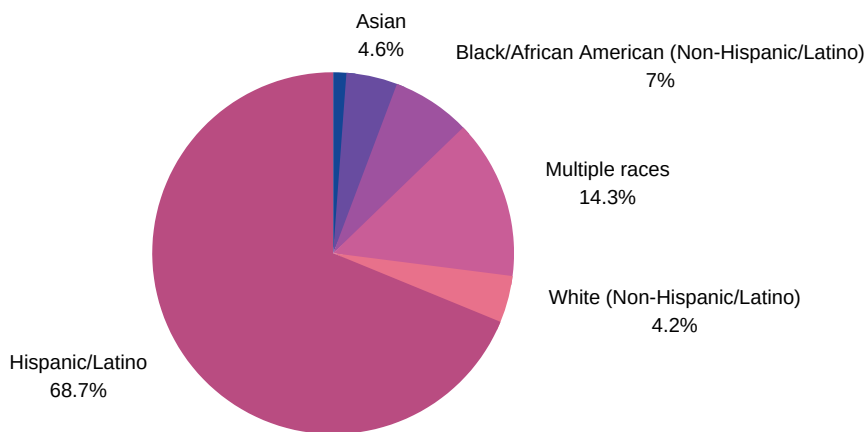
INDIVIDUALS REACHED THROUGH IN-  
PERSON AND VIRTUAL IMMIGRATION  
EDUCATIONAL TRAININGS

# 2,570

FREE IMMIGRATION LEGAL  
SCREENINGS CONDUCTED

# 811

IMMIGRATION CASES ACCEPTED  
FOR FULL REPRESENTATION



Reported Race/Ethnicity Data

Of the 811 cases accepted, we served:

- **248** individuals in deportation proceedings
- **43** individuals currently in immigration detention
- And **87** asylum seekers

Our **331** Immigration Community Navigators that were recruited and trained in FY20 provided **4,273** individuals with accompaniment services to help them navigate the legal system and accessing other services critical to family stability.



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While participating in an Expungement & Sealing Summit held in early 2020, a client began sharing her struggles with the Land of Lincoln attorney assigned to her case. It turned out that the client is currently raising two of her grandchildren, ages 4 and 5 years old. While she is their guardian, she wants to adopt them because their father/ her son is in prison, and the biological mother is absent. These children did not choose to have their lives upended by their father's incarceration. Being adopted by their grandmother provides the stability and security that all young children deserve. Land of Lincoln is currently assisting her in the adoption process.

- Land of Lincoln Legal Aid

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NIJC's Detention Project continues to provide legal screenings and representation to detained individuals who remain in ICE custody as the coronavirus pandemic continues. Pro bono attorneys working through NIJC's Detention Project were able to secure the release of an NIJC client who spent almost a month in immigration detention after he was taken into ICE custody subsequent to a traffic stop in DuPage County.

- Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center

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## OUR PARTNERS

Acclivus, Inc.  
 AFIRE  
 Ascend Justice  
 Beyond Legal Aid  
 BUILD, Inc.  
 Cabrini Green Legal Aid  
 Catholic Charities Legal Aid  
 Centro de Información  
 Centro de Trabajadores Unidos  
 Centro Romero  
 Chicago Community & Workers' Rights  
 Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance  
 Chicago Legal Clinic  
 Chicago Volunteer Legal Services  
 Chicago Workers' Collaborative  
 Children's Legal Center  
 Cornerstone Community Development Corporation  
 Erie Neighborhood House  
 The Evans Exoneration Project  
 Farmworker & Landscaper Advocacy Project  
 First Defense Legal Aid  
 FirstFollowers  
 Free Write Arts & Literacy  
 HANA Center  
 Illinois Legal Aid Online  
 Illinois Prison Project  
 Immigration Project  
 Indo-American Center  
 Instituto del Progreso Latino  
 James B. Moran Center for Youth Advocacy

Land of Lincoln Legal Aid  
 Lawndale Christian Legal Center  
 Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing  
 Legal Aid Chicago  
 Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services  
 Legal Council for Health Justice  
 Metropolitan Tenants Organization  
 The Monroe Foundation  
 Muslim Women Resource Center  
 Heartland Alliance's National Immigrant Justice Center  
 North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic  
 Northern Illinois Justice for our Neighbors  
 Northwest Side Housing Center  
 Northwestern University Bluhm Legal Clinic, Children and Family Justice Center  
 Partners for Our Communities  
 Prairie State Legal Services  
 Renz Addiction Counseling  
 The Resurrection Project  
 Safer Foundation  
 Southwest Organizing Project  
 Spanish Community Center  
 Teamwork Englewood  
 United African Organization  
 Uptown People's Law Center  
 Warehouse Workers for Justice  
 Western Illinois Dreamers  
 Westside Justice Center  
 YMCA of the University of Illinois  
 YWCA Northwestern Illinois

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THE  
 RESURRECTION  
 PROJECT

